

COUNTRY Germany Approved For Release 2001/12/04 : CIA-RDP82-00457R008100470009

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Halle and Merseburg

25X1X

25X1A

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

DATE OF CONTENT 28 April and 25 and 26 May 1951
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DATE OBTAINED _____ 25X1A DATE PREPARED 25 June 1951

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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Halle.

1. On 26 May 1951, the Luftnachrichten Schule, Halle (H 52/D 92), was occupied by only about 250 troops who were engaged primarily in truck driving. Three of the driving-school vehicles were numbered C 4-50-60, C 4-50-67 and C 4-50-70. In addition trucks B 2-76-53 and C 4-50-14 were identified at the installation.
2. On 25 and 26 May, the number of troops in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne on Heiderand was estimated at 400. Since many of the officers and EM wore tank insignia, the troops seemed to be part of the tank unit which had been stationed in the installation. However, no tanks were observed. Source therefore believed that the troops constituted a rear unit and a tank driving school. No training other than the training of tank drivers was observed. Most of the officers' billets were vacant. Vehicles identified at the installation were numbered B 2-78-86, B 2-79-13 and E 1-26-79.
3. The Flak Kaserne, Woermnitz, quartered only about 200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank and artillery insignia. The troops were engaged only in guard and supply routine. Trucks E 1-25-91 and E 1-27-94 were identified. *

Merseburg.

4. At the end of April, the Flak Kaserne on Leusaenstrasse, Merseburg (H 52/D 91), was, according to a driver who hauled bread to the installation, occupied by four batteries which seemed to be affiliated with a unit in Ohrdruf because several officers arrived from Ohrdruf in April. Two types of guns, 100-mm AT guns and howitzers of about 120-mm, were seen in the installation. Prior to 28 April, vehicles C 4-53-32, C 4-53-33, C 4-53-51, C 4-53-61, C 4-53-62, C 4-53-64 and C 4-53-91 were identified at the installation. **
5. On 28 April, a Soviet company of 180 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was stationed in the installation at Merseburg airfield. ***

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Major elements of the 21st Gds Mecz Div from Halle participated in the engineer exercises in the Dessau-Aken area from 6 to 17 May 1951. The departure of these units was previously reported by source, but the present report fails to indicate whether the units returned to the installations. See ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 25X1A Reports by two other sources from Dessau stated that several trains with tank and artillery troops left Dessau toward Koethen and Thuringia between 10 and 17 May 1951. See ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 25X1A Other troops were reported by another source to have been loaded in Halle on 17 and 18 May 1951, or about simultaneously with the loading operations in Dessau. See ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ . Since the 21st Gds Mecz Div held its 1950 summer training at the Kindel troop training grounds, and since the division has not been observed in any other training area with the exception of the engineer exercise in May 1951, it is believed that the bulk of the division moved from the Dessau area directly to Thuringia.

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Components of the unidentified AT Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Itz Rifle Corps are stationed in the Flak Kaserne, Merseburg. Vehicle numbers of this brigade were reported from Ohrdruf in mid-May 1951 and from Letzling Heath on 4 June 1951. See ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 25X1A According to unconfirmed information by another source, most of the troops of the artillery unit in Merseburg allegedly moved to the Eisenach area at the end of April 1951. See ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ . The present report indicated that elements of the unit were still in the installation by the end of April 1951. The present location of the bulk of the brigade therefore cannot be determined. The alleged affiliation of the unit with a unit in Ohrdruf may be because two divisions subordinate to the XXVIII Gds Itz Rifle Corps have been at Ohrdruf since the end of April 1951. The brigade probably conducts officer training courses.

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. The unit at Merseburg airfield is believed to be a component of the artillery brigade. See ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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